

Amendment C (After Final) of September 23, 2008 places dependent claim 8 in independent form including all of the subject matter of its parent claims 1 and 7. Because a dependent claim is read as including all of the subject matter of its parent claim(s), it is submitted that placing a dependent claim in independent form does not change its scope. Moreover, an Office Action had already been issued on claim 8. Accordingly, it is submitted that placing claim 8 in independent form including the subject matter of its parent claims does not raise issues which would require further search or consideration.

Claim 16 has been placed in independent form including all of the subject matter of its parent claim 1. Because a dependent claim is read as including all of the subject matter of its parent claim(s), it is submitted that placing a dependent claim in independent form does not change its scope. Because the scope of claim 16 has not changed, it is submitted that placing claim 16 in independent form and amending "audio prompt" to "voice prompt" for consistency with line 8 raises no issues that would require further search or consideration. Moreover, this amendment simplifies the issues on appeal by resolving a potential 35 U.S.C. § 112 issue regarding antecedent basis. Accordingly, it is submitted that placing claim 16 in independent form including the subject matter of its parent claim raises no issues that would require further search or consideration.

The amendment further places claim 18 in independent form including all of the subject matter of its parent claims 9, 10, and 17. Because a dependent claim is read as including all of the subject matter of its parent claim(s), it is submitted that placing a dependent claim in independent form does not change its scope. Because the scope of claim 18 has not changed, it is submitted that placing claim 18 in independent form raises no issues that would require further search or consideration.

Second, the Amendment C (After Final) reduces the issues on appeal by cancelling claims 1-7, 9-15, 17, and 19.

Moreover, Amendment C (After Final) simplifies the issues on appeal by resolving potential antecedent basis problems which the Examiner had failed to raise in the Office Action of July 29, 2008.

Further, it is submitted that Amendment C (After Final) should be entered as placing the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner

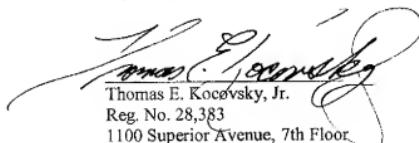
effectively concedes that claims 8, 16, and 18 distinguish over the references which the Examiner had applied against them in the Office Action of July 29, 2008. If the Examiner had duly searched and considered all claims in the July 29, 2008 Office Action and if the references of record do not render claims 8, 16, or 18 unpatentable, then it is submitted that this Amendment C (After Final) places the application in condition for allowance.

Although the Examiner has checked the box asserting that Amendment C (After Final) would raise that would require further search or consideration, the Examiner provides no reason for such conclusion. Because the Examiner has given no reason for asserting that the claims would require further search or consideration, it is submitted that the Examiner has not provided adequate basis for denying entry of Amendment C (After Final).

Accordingly, it is hereby requested that Amendment C (After Final) be entered for purposes of Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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